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CHIEFS MEET AT QUANTICO ON DEFENSE

Annual Conference At Marine Base Draws 200 Leaders

By MARK S. WATSON

[Sun Military Correspondent]

Quantico, Va., June 16—Nearly 200 of the country's ranking defense chiefs, both military and civilian, assembled here this afternoon for the start of the annual three-day Secretary's conference.

Reports are scheduled from the responsible heads of almost every activity of the Armed Services.

Possibly of even greater importance than the formal addresses from departmental executives and overseas commanders is the three-day opportunity for interrogation on the probable significance of momentous events of the recent past.

Range Is International

These range from the insurrection in Tokyo and the U-2 air-spy episode, and the Moscow rebuff to President Eisenhower, to the United States Senate's present proposals for much larger defense outlay.

The list of scheduled addresses is suggestive.

Tomorrow's program includes speeches by Gen. C. P. Cabell, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Raymond A. Hare, Deputy Under Secretary of State on foreign policy; John N. Irwin, Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Col. Leroy M. Stanton of the joint staff, on disarmament; John A. McCone, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Herbert F. York, director of defense research.

All save two of the top overseas commanders will be present. Gen. Lauris Norstad, United States commander in Europe, will be represented by his deputy, Gen. Charles D. Palmer, and Gen. Carter B. Magruder in Korea by Lt. Gen. Everett L. Cummings.

Stans Speaks Last

All five of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are scheduled for speeches. When all the principal defense authorities, from the Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates, Jr., down the list, have announced their several hopes, the closing speech on Saturday will be by Maurice H. Stans, the Director of the Federal Budget, whose thrifty edicts have put many a defense project to sleep. This time he is given the last word, without argument.

The annual conference was initiated by Charles E. Wilson in his first year as Defense Secretary, in the belief that a combination of serious business reports and recreation periods during a week end on the spacious Marine Corps base, far from Washington, would bring about helpful acquaintances among his civilian and military lieutenants.

Normally the President has paid a brief visit during the annual weekend. This year, with the President in the Orient, even the Vice President stayed away.